

PRESS



RELEASE

Chief Justice Drayton Nabers announces the expansion of electronic filing in Alabama's appellate courts. This expansion allows attorneys to file briefs electronically. The electronic filing system in the appellate courts ("E-Appellate") has been tested in the Alabama Judicial System under a pilot project. In the pilot project, E-Appellate has been an application that allows the trial courts to communicate with and upload court documents to the appellate courts through a secure, internet connection. For attorneys, the application serves as a central location to access records essential to the appeal. Now, attorneys will have the capability of filing appellate briefs from their offices with a simple click of a button.

Currently, E-Appellate is available in eight Alabama counties. Russell County, which has participated in the E-Appellate process since its inception in 2004, continues to see outstanding results. Kathy Coulter, Circuit Clerk of Russell County said, "The E-Appellate system has proven to be a dynamic tool in the office of the circuit clerk. I am excited that this system will soon be available to every clerk's office in our state." Jane Smith, Circuit Clerk of Madison County concurs. "I have seen many changes in the court system over the past 33 years. The E-Appellate program has probably saved more man-hours and money than any other single technology application I have seen."

Alabama is one of only a few states to provide a comprehensive statewide e-filing solution that includes all jurisdictions from Small Claims to appeals to the

Supreme Court. The state-of-the-art solutions to traditional paper filing are fundamentally changing the manner in which the courts operate, enhancing quality and reducing cost to the public. Alabama's electronic filing system in the trial courts ("AlaFile") is currently available in 41 counties. To date more than 2,800 attorneys have registered with AlaFile, over 8,000 documents have been e-filed statewide, and nearly 3,000 orders have been electronically entered by trial court judges. Additionally, over 600 appealed cases have been transmitted to the appellate courts through E-Appellate.

Chief Justice Nabers said, "I am pleased the technology is offering us a secure and efficient method for attorneys and court personnel to share documents. E-Appellate has proven to be a high-quality, time-saving, and efficient process to file appeals. With the addition of e-filing of appellate briefs to the application, the system will continue to improve for attorneys, court personnel and the public. This is one more way the Alabama Judicial System is becoming more efficient and accessible to the citizens it serves. We are already among the leaders nationally, and our goal is to be number one in quality and efficiency through technology".

For more information of electronic filing in the Alabama Judicial System and about the AlaFile and E-Appellate applications, please go to <http://efile.alacourt.gov>.